

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OLC 76-0052

7 January 1976

Honorable Thomas E. Morgan, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
Committee on International Relations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Knowing that you share my concern over the disclosures which may be harmful to our Nation's foreign intelligence interests, I am writing with reference to a spate of newspaper reports on a briefing provided the Subcommittee on Oversight on 9 December 1975.

The first report to my knowledge was carried in a California paper, the Sacramento Bee, on 26 December. The story, "according to one informant," reports what transpired in my briefing of a "closed door session" of your Subcommittee.

I am confident that the "informant" is not associated with this Agency.

The 9 December briefing of your Subcommittee was provided pursuant to the 1974 amendments to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. The legislative history of the enactment is replete with congressional recognition and pledges that stringent security procedures must be followed to protect the sensitive national security information to be imparted.

Leakage of such briefings flies in the face of what appeared to be clear security imperatives agreed to by the Congress. It also raises a doubt about providing sensitive information to congressional committees under assurances that it will be treated responsibly.



24 DEC 1975

Honorable Carl Albert  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Recent actions in the House of Representatives demonstrating the lack of protection afforded sensitive information leaves me greatly concerned about the extent to which the Director of Central Intelligence should continue to provide to the appropriate committees of Congress information of a sensitive nature from the standpoint of our national security. I am equally concerned with respect to such information already in the custody of various committees of the Congress.

As you know, under the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, the Congress placed upon the Director of Central Intelligence responsibility "for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure."

I am aware that this matter was a subject of concern to the House Select Committee on Committees in the 93rd Congress. The report on the Committee Reform Amendments of 1974 strongly suggested "that the House must take the initiative to create an orderly set of rules which govern the receipt, use, storage, and dissemination of national security information and intelligence," (House Report 93-916, page 96). This conclusion was preceded by the observation on page 95 that, "[t]he hard fact is that if the highest officials of the executive branch who collect, interpret, and control sensitive information believe that sharing it with Congress will lead to its public disclosure,



## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Acting Legislative Couns

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

7 January 1976

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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